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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 14, 2002**

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# **CHANDLER, ARIZONA WOMAN SENTENCED FOR DEFRAUDING SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMS**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced today that on May 13, 2002, United States District Court Judge Roslyn O. Silver sentenced JANNIE HOLMES-STARK, age 60, of Chandler, Arizona, to ten (10) months in prison for defrauding Social Security programs of \$58,799.00. In addition to her sentence, HOLMES-STARK was placed on supervised release for one year and ordered to pay full restitution to the Social Security Administration.

According to the Court, HOLMES-STARK became Representative Payee for her mother, a recipient of Social Security retirement insurance benefits, in July 1990. In March 1993 her mother died, and her retirement insurance benefits should have ceased. As Representative Payee, HOLMES-STARK was responsible for notifying Social Security of any changes affecting her mother's benefits. Instead, HOLMES-STARK concealed her mother's death, forged her mother's signature on the monthly Social Security retirement insurance benefits checks, and converted the money to her own personal use. Thus, between March 1993 and November 2001, when the theft was discovered by the Social Security Administration, HOLMES-STARK stole \$58,799 in Social Security retirement insurance benefits.

(MORE)

The investigation that led to the conviction and sentence was conducted by the Agents from the Phoenix office of the Social Security Administration/Office of Inspector General and is the result of a joint effort between the Department of Justice, United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, and the Social Security Administration/Office of the Inspector General, to identify and prosecute fraud against Social Security benefit programs.

The prosecution was handled by John K. Webb, Special Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-01-01082-PHX-ROS  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2002-090

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